

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

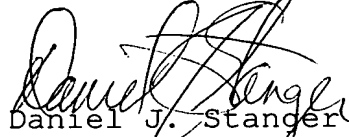
Claims 2-4, 6-11, 16-27, and 33 are now pending.

Claims 16 and 31 were objected to because of the informalities mentioned on page 2 of the Office Action. Claim 16 has been amended to address the Examiner's concern, while claim 31 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 5, 12-15, and 28-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Melen et al U.S. Patent No. 6,263,121 (Melen). Claims 32 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Melen. Claims 1, 5, 12-15, 28-32, and 34-36 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the outstanding objections and rejections have been rendered moot, with no admission as to their propriety.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 684-1120
Facsimile: (703) 684-1157
Date: November 3, 2003